(b) whether the British based Colt Telecom has decided to transfer some 350 jobs to India from Germany by the end of the year 2004;

(c) whether Colt Telecom has also decided to shift another 250 jobs to India from its London Headquarters; and

(d) whether the NASSCOM has been promoting India as an ideal destination for global telecom and IT majors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD). (a) Many US companies including Microsoft in the IT sector are known to be expanding their business activities in India.

(b) and (c) It is reported that Colt Telecom has already established its India operations. It will not be appropriate to establish a direct correlation between the expansion of a company's operations in India and the manpower rationalisation undertaken in its establishment in other countries.

(d) NASSCOM has taken a number of initiatives to promote India as an ideal destination for global telecom and IT majors. These include organisation of events, conferences and fora (both domestic and international), global trade development programme and visa facilitation.

Tariff for domestic and mobile telephones

†1644. DR PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tariff for domestic telephones is higher than that for mobile phones;

(b) the per minute tariff differences between the domestic telephones and the mobile phones;

(c) the reasons for these differences; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) There is no uniform rate of domestic tariff either in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

basic or in cellular service The rates of telecom services are market driven in the present competitive environment in the sector The call charges and tariffs vary among different operators and also would depend upon alternative tariff packages chosen by particular subscriber depending on his usage pattern. Therefore, a meaningful comparison with corresponding plans/tariff of basic phone *vis-a-vis* the mobile phone is not feasible. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors these rates.

Non-Availability of BSNL Sim Cards in AP

1645. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the BSNL Sim Cards, for BSNL intending cellphone users, are not easily available anywhere in Andhra Pradesh due to their heavy shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether Government would assure of supplying enough BSNL Sim Cards in view of heavy demand, at every centre, immediately before intending customers get diverted *en-masse* to other Private Communications Corporate Bodies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sufficient number of Sim Cards are made available to the Distribution chain limiting to the available network capacity at various stations of Andhra Pradesh Circle

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) BSNL is presently engaged in expanding the network by a capacity of 1,80,000 lines. Further plans have also been drawn to expand the capacity of the network by 9,63,000 lines during 2005. The availability of capacities progressively would ease the process of providing additional connections.